

FOURTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

SUPERINTENDENT

OF THE

State Lunatic Asylum


FOR INSANE CRIMINALS,

AT AUBURN, N. Y.

FOR THE YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30TH, 1873.

AUBURN, N. Y.:

DAILY ADVERTISER AND WEEKLY JOURNAL STEAM PRINTING HOUSE.
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FOURTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Superintendent of the Asylum

FOR

INSANE CRIMINALS.



To the Honorable Board of Inspectors of State Prisons:

GENTLEMEN:—Another year of labor and responsibility with its cares and anxieties, has passed. Its results are unalterably written, and remain to be approved or condemned by the Great Overseer whose eye is ever upon us. It is but fitting, as we hastily review the labors of the old year, and are about to enter upon the new, that we acknowledge our oft-repeated failures, ever praying for renewed strength and increased success for the future. With grateful remembrance of former blessings, and freedom from unusual calamity, we enter upon the duties of another year with higher hopes and brighter anticipations. The past has been a year of unusual prosperity to our asylum,—not that the numbers have so far exceeded those of former years, or that the deaths have been fewer; but, in that favorable results have been greater than in preceding years, compared with the numbers received, and those regarded as curable. While several who still remain have apparently recovered, others have greatly improved, giving promise of a speedy return to health. With the increased accommodations and facilities for treatment which will soon be afforded in the completion of the new building we shall hope for still more favorable results.

There were remaining in the asylum at the date of my last report eighty-seven patients,—eighty-one men and six women. During the year just closed there have been received twenty-two patients, eighteen men and four women, as follows:

From Auburn Prison, six men; from Clinton Prison, one man; from Sing Sing Prison, eight men; from Female Prison, four women; from the State Lunatic Asylum at Utica, two men; from Monroe County Jail, one man. Five of those received from the State Prisons were insane when they were received into prison. Those received from the State Asylum at Utica are charged with murder, but not convicted by reason of alleged insanity; while the one from Monroe County Jail stands convicted of murder, but not sentenced, he having been declared insane by a commission appointed under Chapter 666, Laws of 1871.

The total population of the asylum for the year is one hundred and nine. Twenty-three have been discharged, died or escaped. The greatest number in the asylum at one time during the year is ninety-seven. The following statement shows the mental condition and duration of disease previous to entering the asylum, in those received from the Prisons.

	Under 3 Mos.	Six Months.	Eight Months.	One Year.	Three Years.	Not Known.	Total.
Mania Acute.....	2						2
Mania Chronic.....		2	1	1	2	3	9
Mania Paroxysmal.....			1				1
Melancholia.....		1				2	3
Dementia.....	2			1		1	4
	4	3	2	2	2	6	19

Of those remaining in the Asylum, twenty-one are charged with murder or attempts to commit murder, but unconvicted by reason of alleged insanity, and two are convicted of murder who have not been inmates of our State Prisons. The remaining sixty-three are from the different prisons of the State.

Of those discharged eleven had recovered, two escaped much improved, one improved, five were unimproved and four died.

The whole number of admissions to the Asylum to the present time is three hundred and two, as follows: From Auburn Prison, one hundred and two; from Clinton Prison, forty-four; from Sing Sing Prison, one hundred and thirty; from Utica Asylum, twenty; from Columbia County, one; from Ulster County, two; from Rensselaer County, one; from Monroe County one, and one from New York City Prison. Of those from Auburn Prison twenty-one were transfers from Sing Sing Prison, as were also ten of those from Clinton Prison. The whole number discharged recovered is eighty-seven. Ninety-three

have been returned to the counties where they were sentenced, or surrendered to friends; and thirty-seven have died.

The following table shows the number of admissions, recoveries, discharges and deaths, each year, since the opening of the Asylum :

END OF FISCAL YEAR.	Number admitted.	Whole number in Asylum.	Number discharged recovered.	Number discharged not recovered.	Number died.	Number remaining.
September 30th, 1859,.....	55	55		4		51
" " 1860,.....	14	65	2	8		55
" " 1861,.....	30	85	2	10		69
" " 1862,.....	27	96	2	6	4	81
" " 1863,.....	10	91	6	4	2	79
" " 1864,.....	6	85	7	7		71
" " 1865,.....	9	80	3	1	3	73
" " 1866,.....	4	77	3		3	71
" " 1867,.....	11	82	2	1	2	77
" " 1868,.....	14	91	9	3	3	76
" " 1869,.....	23	99	9	6	5	79
" " 1870,.....	17	96	9	24	3	60
" " 1871,.....	30	90	6	8	2	74
" " 1872,.....	31	105	10	3	5	87
" " 1873,.....	22	109	11	8	4	86

The deaths occurring during the year were as follows :

ANDREW KLEIM, a German, aged sixty-eight, cabinet maker, arrested December 23d, 1844, in New York City, charged with murder; tried May 21st, 1845, and acquitted on the ground of insanity, and committed to the State Asylum at Utica, and transferred to this Asylum, November 23d, 1869. Six months after his committal to the Asylum the Editor of the *Journal of Insanity* says "he has been uniformly mild and pleasant. He has not asked a question during the time, nor spoken or learned the name of any one. He seems but very imperfectly to recollect the murder, or trial." Kleim maintained his character of twenty-eight years ago to the last, always going with his head down, never speaking excepting in answer to questions, and then only in monosyllables. He continued to labor daily at the wash-house until three weeks before his death, when he was seized with diarrhœa, by which he was rapidly prostrated, and died June 14.

Autopsy.—Made twelve hours after death. Head only examined. Skull of remarkable thickness; skull cap firmly adherent to membranes; brain of unusual firmness, and apparently atrophied; numerous bands of organized lymph firmly uniting the convolutions of the brain; membranes strongly adhering to, and requiring to be dissected from the upper portion of the brain, beneath which was found a hard-

ened substance about the size of a silver dollar and three-eighths of an inch in thickness of the density of cartilage.

Dr. Pliny Earle, then Superintendent of Bloomingdale Asylum, testified at the trial to having observed in the location of this induration "a spot upon the scalp the size of a dollar, upon which the hair was extremely thin; that he did not observe any scar. The prisoner told him that when he was about eleven years of age, he had an eruption in the place where the hair was so thin, which was cured. Monomania might be caused by an eruption repelled."

ANN HERRING, native of Ireland; convicted of Grand Larceny, March, 1850. Had been an inmate of State Asylum at Utica since October 24th of the same year, transferred to this Asylum June 16th, 1871. Chronic Mania—has had epileptic seizures. Died July 11th. This patient had a large bronchocele, which during the six months preceding her death had gradually disappeared, a tumor at the same time developing in the upper portion of the chest, behind and at the left of the sternum. This tumor gradually increased until it caused the sternum and ribs of the left side to protrude about an inch and a half, the patient during this time suffering from frequent attacks of dyspnea, accompanied with severe pain in the spine. During the last years of her life the pupil of the left eye was permanently dilated; she was incoherent, and subject to attacks of violent vociferation; unless restrained, her exertions for hours being only limited by her apparently supernatural strength.

Autopsy.—Made twenty-four hours after death. Body much emaciated.

Brain.—Dura Mater adhered firmly to os frontis, with a redness and increase of vascularity at this part; the posterior basal right lobe of the brain much softened; cineritious substance pale, presenting this attenuated hue throughout its entire structure.

Chest.—From three to four ounces of serum in the pericardium, which was firmly adherent to the pleura; about two pounds of serum within the left cavity of the chest; left lung compressed and solidified; caries of the sternum at its upper third, commencing at the fourth rib; caries of the fourth, fifth, sixth, seventh and eighth dorsal vertebræ. On the left side of the neck were the remains of a large bronchocele, shrunk in dimensions to two inches in its longest, by one inch in its shortest diameters, attached by a neck or adhesion one half-inch in diameter, to the sack of a tumor external to and formed by reflex-

ing the pleura upon itself, thereby forming a pocket for its lodgement, in size from four to five inches in its several diameters. This tumor lying in contact with the carious upper third of the sternum in front, and pressing upon the carious dorsal vertebrae extending from the fourth to the eighth, was composed in part of a laminated mass, the laminae easily separated and turned off as the leaves of a book, and about the thickness of paper; in part of coagulated blood in which the laminated structure was very distinctly visible, but not of sufficient maturity to separate, and of freshly coagulated blood. On its upper portion, in extent about two inches by three-fourths of an inch in depth, the cellular tissue was filled with serum, from which the blood seemed to be excluded by coagulation.

For several months before death, while the tumor was developing in the chest, and before it had become apparent by the elevation of the sternum and ribs, the goitre had gradually diminished; and diminishing rapidly for six weeks previous to death, had shrunk to an inconsiderable size. It contained a small quantity of foetid fluid of light brown color, and seemed destitute of vascularity.

AUGUSTUS TERRY; age thirty-nine; school teacher; Dementia; crime murder; committed to State Asylum at Utica, November 11th, 1859. Transferred to this Asylum November 23rd, 1869. Died August 16th. This patient was seldom known to utter a word while an inmate of this institution. He would stand or sit in one position without moving until compelled to do so.

Autopsy.—Made eighteen hours after death. Body extremely emaciated; the adipose tissue and fluids consumed. Head only examined. Scalp dry and entirely destitute of blood. Skull extremely thin and transparent. The cerebral substance was much softened, the upper portion of the left hemisphere not retaining its form.

JOHN K. MORTIMER; age twenty-nine; Printer; convicted of assault to kill, August 14th, 1872, and transferred from Sing Sing Prison to this Asylum thirteen days thereafter. Certified as insane when he entered prison. Had Epilepsy. Died August 16th *in status epilepticus*.

Autopsy.—Made twelve hours after death. Head only examined. Meningeal vessels were very much congested. Extensive serous effusion in the sub arachnoid space and ventricles, the cineritious substance very thin and pale, and the convolutions much depressed.

On the morning of August 4th, between the hours of two and three two convicts, James Buckley and John McCabe, confined in this Asylum, escaped by unlocking their cell and transept doors and forcing the door leading into the new wing. They had been provided by convicts from the prison, employed on the new building with a "jimmy" two and one-half feet in length, a screw-driver, and a large knife and saw made for cutting iron, in return for which they placed two suits of patient's clothing in the wing, to be used by convicts in their efforts at escape. Buckley was subject to paroxysms of mania, and McCabe was nearly recovered from an attack of acute mania. Both were desperate men, and from the manner in which they were armed, were evidently intent upon escape even at the sacrifice of life. The large number of convicts thrust upon us for labor enabled many to remain much of the time idle giving them opportunity, with the great laxity of discipline existing, to introduce weapons and implements of escape into our halls and keep the officers of the Asylum in constant peril.

On the morning of July 21st, two inmates of the Asylum, James Burns of New York City, acquitted of Murder on the ground of insanity, and David Montgomery of Rochester, under conviction for Murder, and committed to this Asylum under the provisions of Chapter 666, Laws of 1871, were engaged under the directions of Attendant Alfred Hoagland in preparing the table for the patients' breakfast, when Burns sprang upon the attendant from behind, drawing a shoe knife, the blade of which was five inches in length, across his throat inflicting a wound more than four inches in length. Providentially the blade was loose in the handle, and Mr. Hoagland seizing it pulled it out. But for this circumstance we should probably be under the painful necessity of chronicling a Murder in our Asylum. The knife was identified as belonging to the shoe shop in the prison. Burns has since confessed to me that he had four knives given to him by convicts.

Many of the insane are detained in this Asylum after their terms of sentence have expired as dangerous lunatics, while the laws of our State permit the removal of such as are deemed harmless, to the Counties of their former residence or where they were sentenced. It is often a delicate question to decide when a patient is harmless and likely to continue so, for while under the restraining influences of an Asylum where all his habits of life are of necessity regular, no excesses permitted, and all excitement of the world shut out, he may be quiet, peaceable and *harmless*, yet, when committed to the custody of the Su-

perintendent of the Poor in those Counties where no Asylum exists, and he become an inmate of the County Alms House, what assurance have we that he will not stray away, indulge in dissipation, irregularity and excess, and his entire condition be changed and the harmless inmate of the Asylum becomes dangerous to the well being of society. With the chronic insane the homicidal propensity is sometimes very strong. Often patient, careful and systematic preparation is made in the most secret and unsuspecting manner to carry out their deeds of violence.

The insane convict is confined in this Asylum for purposes of care, treatment and cure, not for punishment. The law is interposed in his behalf, forbidding punishment "for any crime or offense while he continues in that state." Thus is sentence virtually suspended, and I would suggest both the propriety and justice of a law providing that sentence should not mature while an inmate of this Asylum; and that the treatment and maintenance of patients here should be at the expense of the counties where convicted. Thus, while no injustice would be done, the incentive on the part of the convict to feign insanity would be gone, and the burden of support for those lunatics who are sentenced to our State Prisons fall where it rightfully belongs.

By reference to Table No. 14 it will be seen that of the nineteen patients received from the prisons, in only four cases had the disease existed less than three months; in three, six months; in two, eight months; in two, one year; in two, three years; and in six cases the date of attack is not known. Of those in whom the duration of disease is not known, one had been an inmate of the Prison eighteen years; one, four and one-half years; one, sixteen months; one, ten months; one, seven months; and one, one month.

The importance of early treatment is conclusively shown by the evidence gleaned from the recorded observations of alienists extending through a long period of time. The records of sixty years in the York Retreat shows that of those placed under treatment during the first three months of the disease seventy-three per cent. recovered. There has seemed at times to be a disposition on the part of the prison authorities to detain the insane in their institutions as long as possible perhaps from a feeling of delicacy lest they may prove impostors. Better far transfer occasionally an imposter than that the insane be deprived of early treatment, for, with the lapse of time, the percentage of cures decrease with amazing rapidity.

The certificates of insanity made by the prison physicians indicate that more than one-half of the cases of insanity occurring in the Prisons of our State are the result of "*Masturbation*." If this be true, that a single cause exerts such a powerful influence for evil, it is an alarming fact, and some suitable and efficient preventive measures should be devised and adopted before the ruin of the convict is accomplished. Setting aside all humanitarian considerations, the interests of the State alone demand some action upon the part of those in charge of our prisons to avert so great a calamity. Not only is there positive loss of service to the State during the term of sentence, but the great mass of victims of this abandoned practice remain through life a public charge and drain upon the treasury of the State. No one cause so potent for evil should be left without at least an earnest effort for relief. When these cases reach the Asylum they are generally beyond restoration, and remain as objects of care rather than cure.

Maudsley says: "A fatal drain upon the vitality of the higher nervous centres may in certain cases be produced by the excessive exercise of a physical function, by an excessive sexual indulgence, or by continued self-abuse. Nothing is more certain than that either of these causes will produce an enervation of nervous element which, if the exhausting vice be continued, passes by a further declension into degeneration and actual destruction thereof. The flying pains and heaviness in the limbs, and the startings of the muscles, which follow an occasional sexual excess, are signs of instability of nervous element in the spinal centres, which, if the cause is in continual operation, may end in inflammation and softening of the cord, and consequent paralysis. Nor do the supreme centres always escape: the habit of self-abuse notably gives rise to a particular and disagreeable form of insanity, characterized by intense self-feeling and conceit, extreme perversion of feeling, and corresponding derangement of thought, in the earliest stages; and later, by failure of intelligence, nocturnal hallucinations, and suicidal or homicidal propensities."

With these facts before us it seems a duty we owe the State and the unfortunate victims of vice committed to our care, to see to it that every exciting cause is removed and every restraining influence within our power interposed. The healthful exercise of the moral and intellectual faculties diverts the mind from indulgence of sensual passion. Individuals whose time is not properly occupied by labor, business or

intellectual pursuits almost inevitably become the victims of the lower propensities. Idleness is the parent of vice.

This vice, I believe, often exists as a symptom of cerebral disease, and what is sometimes regarded as cause may be merely result. It often occurs as a morbid irresistible impulse, defying all efforts of the will toward restraint. Patients have entered this Asylum who had been subjected to most cruel local irritation, but the vice was not checked. Instruments of torture have been devised and secured upon the hands, but the habit continues. The will is perverted, and in defiance of irritations and instruments of torture, the victim of this vice is impelled on as by madness unmindful of the agonies he is enduring.

Traumatic irritation of the spinal cord may cause priapism with no assurance of virility; so may this impulse exist as the result of certain forms of cerebral irritation and not as the prompting of a healthful desire.

Nor is this vice confined to any period of life. The child of tender years or the man of whitened locks may be the victim of this strange impulse.

Marc gives an account of a little girl of eight years who was addicted to this vice. The child was morose, pale and silent with homicidal propensities, and when spoken to her answers were abrupt. Her health was improved by a residence in the country, but on being returned to town she again became pale and melancholy.

The case of a little girl of six years of age fell under my own observation who was a victim to this practice. She was pale and thin and subject to twitchings of the muscles of the face which the parents had regarded as a habit, and for which she was punished. In a short period of time she had epileptic seizures, and is now a poor demented epileptic.

An old man of sixty-five, in whom "all desire had apparently ceased," was to himself unaccountably seized with this propensity, so that the extremes of life are not exempt from this malady. It becomes not the voluntary act of a natural desire which is under control of the will, but is prompted by an extreme irritability of the organization, in sympathy with the diseased nervous centres, cerebral or spinal. Hence are these persons the victims of disease; physical, not moral, and susceptible oftentimes of cure. In tracing the history of numerous cases, it will be found that this habit many times becomes abruptly uncontrollable, without previous excessive gratification of pleasurable excitement.

The Asylum records, although imperfectly kept during the first few years of its history, as to the mental condition of its inmates when received into the prisons of our State, exhibit the following facts: Of two hundred and seventy-six entries from the prisons, fourteen were cases of feigned insanity, and twelve had been re-admitted, leaving two hundred and fifty distinct cases of insanity. Fifty-four of these were certified as insane when received into prison, and fifteen had suffered from an attack of insanity previous to entering prison, while a number were transferred to this Asylum within a very short period of time after their admission to prison, of whose previous mental condition no account is given.

Of those certified as insane at entrance to prison, thirty-seven were convicted of crime against property, and seventeen of crime against person. Seven of those committed for crime against property were guilty of arson, and seven of those convicted of crime against person had committed homicides.

Thus it appears that nearly one-fourth of the patients received from the prisons into this Asylum were irresponsible beings, convicted and sentenced to suffer a felon's doom, in direct conflict of law. The statute says; "*No act done by a person in a state of insanity can be punished as an offense; and no insane person can be tried, sentenced to any punishment, or punished for any crime or offense while he continues in that state.*"

I am unwilling to impugn the integrity of our Courts, or believe that sinister considerations of local relief or advantage could enter our Halls of Justice, perverting them from their legitimate purposes of defending the weak and enforcing the right, converting them into engines of wrong and oppression; and must attribute such results to other causes in order to reconcile these apparent acts of injustice with a proper discharge of official duty, and lift the cloud which otherwise tarnishes the judicial character. At times when a great crime has been committed, when an act of the most revolting brutality has been perpetrated and the popular mind fired to the highest state of vindictive indignation, it may be difficult to look coolly on and not be moved by the popular clamor. At such times injustice is far more likely to be done to those struggling under a burden of mental oppression, or groping in the thick darkness of moral idiocy, than that the guilty should escape under the specious plea of insanity, when the popular mind is cool and collected, and an impartial investigation takes place.

While we would encourage no morbid sentiments of sympathy to screen the guilty, and rob the law of its terrors to those who do evil, we should ever be jealous of the rights of those upon whom disease has laid her withering hand, dethroning reason and paralysing the will, and see to it that the law is interposed for their protection.

On the 30th day of May, 1871, a patient was received into this Asylum who had one week previously been arraigned, tried, convicted of murder, and sentenced to one of our State Prisons for the term of his natural life. At entrance into prison he was incoherent, and remained so until death. It was subsequently ascertained that this patient had been an inmate for the preceding two or three years of an Asylum in a neighboring State, and discharged as incurable. We were unable to learn that any investigation as to his mental condition was permitted previous to or at the time of his trial. Other cases of a similar character could be given, showing the disposition when the public mind is excited, to overlook the true condition of the criminal and his relation to the law, and cause a summary disposition to be made of the offending member of society.

It is a matter of deep regret that these acts of apparent judicial injustice are not confined to times when the public mind has been shocked by deeds of the most brutal atrocity, for then we could plead extenuating circumstances in partial justification. But most of the victims of this careless and unjust system of practice, are men comparatively harmless, committing the minor offenses which would subject to punishment in our State Prisons. These cases occur mostly in our large cities, where crime runs rampant, and public security demands speedy punishment. It is not to be wondered that when the criminal calendar is crowded and the Court intent upon the punishment of crime, the plea of insanity when interposed should be looked upon with suspicion or even contempt, and the true mental condition remain unobserved, for the insane are the last to make the admission. The majesty of the law is to be upheld and made a terror to evil doers, and the guilty not to be left unwhipped of justice. But justice should ever be tempered with mercy, and punishment measured by responsibility.

It is but charitable to believe that many of these cases are the result of obscure mental disease simulating criminality. That crime is not exclusively the offspring of a perverted moral nature, but in many instances results from mental unsoundness, is strongly indicated by the large proportion of insane to sane criminals as shown by the

Judicial Statistics of Great Britain. The judicial history of our own State and Country presents many illustrations, that a large number of extraordinary and apparently motiveless acts of violence and crime, may have their origin in some cerebral disease, concealed and unobserved, prior to or at the time of trial, and which might have long lain concealed, except for the super-added mental excitement caused by the sudden realization that the individual stands a convicted felon, sentenced to death or life-long imprisonment. These conditions are often unmarked by disturbance of the bodily health calling for medical aid, and not until the individual is brought under the immediate observation of the prison physician, and the mental disturbance aggravated by the consciousness of conviction and incarceration, is the true condition recognized. In the commencement the derangement of mind may be so obscure and transient, as to envelope the judgment in doubt as to the existence of so grave an impending malady. Many of these cases are paroxysmal in their character, and pass for years unrecognized, and are often attributed to maliciousness of disposition, while some are apparently of recent origin and recover under treatment. How often, too, does the lunatic labor in the most subtle manner to conceal his delusions, as if conscious of their existence. Many such cases have come under observation in this Asylum at the expiration of sentence, they being aware that the recognized insane are not discharged. The passions, propensities, affections and moral sense are most frequently implicated in these obscure morbid mental conditions. How often are the affections alienated without cause, feelings of enmity aroused against those nearest and dearest in health, the passions and propensities left unbridled, and the moral sense utterly perverted.

"Do we sufficiently estimate," says Winslow "the effects of physical disease upon the character and actions of those upon whose conduct we are sometimes called to sit in judgment? How slight are the changes in the corporal health, and subtle the variations in the delicate structure of the brain, that precede and accompany remarkable alterations in the moral and intellectual character! The brave and heroic become, in particular states of ill-health, as timid and bashful as coy maidens. Humane men have been driven to acts of desperation and cruelty, under the influence of certain physical diseases disturbing and deranging the operations of thought."

In Epilepsy we find many striking illustrations of concealed mental disease, with desperate homicidal propensities. Paroxysmal in its char-

acter, it may for a long time pass unnoticed by the common observer : often in the masked and nocturnal forms unsuspected by the most intimate friends, and the more to be dreaded by reason of its great obscurity and incurability when mental alienation has taken place. The homicidal impulse is often strongly marked in connection with this disease.

A young man was received into this Asylum August 27th, 1872, from one of our State Prisons who had been convicted thirteen days previously of assault to kill. On being arraigned, he put in a plea of acting in self-defense. No inquiry was instituted as to his mental condition, nor had any derangement of his mental faculties been suspected by his most intimate associates, and not until his entrance to prison was it detected. This young man labored under the delusion that he was assaulted and abused by his fellow-patients and the attendants in the Asylum ; always complaining of his treatment, and ever ready to act on the defensive. Application for his pardon was made, which I opposed, on the ground that he was a dangerous lunatic. His brother, who made the application for his pardon, a gentleman of high respectability, informed me that no mental disease had been suspected prior to his imprisonment. Soon after entering the Asylum he gave unmistakable evidence of larvated epilepsy. The echo sign in epilepsy as shown in a paper read by Dr. Echeverria before the Association of Medical Superintendents at Baltimore in May last, was beautifully illustrated in several of his letters, and of great interest as showing the rapidity with which the nervous disturbance was developed.

This young man became rapidly demented during the last three or four months of his life. He was seized with convulsions while walking the hall August 15th, and died thirty-six hours thereafter *in status epilepticus*.

How important that these obscure and unrecognized cases of mental disease should be sought out, detected and placed where they properly belong, as objects of care and not of discipline ; exciting our sympathies and not the vengeance of law. Not only justice to the afflicted, but the interests of humanity and christian duty require that these unfortunate, helpless beings should be protected in their just rights : the law preserved inviolate, that the harmonious workings of our prison discipline be not thereby disturbed. Our State has done nobly in enacting laws and providing for the care and protection of the insane

and feeble minded, and all that now remains to be done is to see those provisions carried out. Here is a commendable work for the philanthropic, especially in our large cities. The physicians to our jails and city prisons should be so remunerated as to be able to afford the time and study each individual case consigned to their care, and see that the lunatic is not classed with the criminal. The faithful and humane physician would find much satisfaction in the consciousness of protecting the irresponsible and exposing the dissembler, that justice be not defrauded of her rights. Where there is reasonable doubt as to the mental condition, especially where grave offenses have been committed, it would be better to defer trial and place the accused under proper observation until his true mental condition could be definitely determined.

In some neighboring States not having such an institution as a Criminal Insane Asylum, and where, of necessity, that class of patients are consigned to the ordinary State Asylums, there is a growing and commendable interest on the subject. We welcome this agitation of a question so important to the interests of humanity and society, and hope that the immediate future will be one of substantial progress in this branch of reform. While recognizing the force of much that has been recently said as to the distinction that exists between those whose insanity is the outgrowth and penalty of a vicious life, and those whose criminal acts are simply the freaks of irresponsible minds—victims of misfortune only—we must not lose sight of the fact that to society both classes are equally dangerous. An insane asylum of any kind is in no respect punitive in its character: its sole object being the protection of society and care and restoration of the unfortunates committed to its wards. Incarceration in a criminal insane asylum is no more a degradation than the fact of insanity. That gradation should be established in such an institution is perhaps wise and humane. That the hardened convict should be separated from the innocent lunatic whose mania unfortunately renders his safe custody necessary for his own and society's welfare, we believe to be right, and dictated alike by humanity and christian duty. That such a separation is possible there can be no question. Though the law suspends its sentence on a criminal act that is the result of the morbid action of an insane mind, and sends the perpetrator to a safely guarded asylum, that society may be protected from further harm, and if possible, a cure effected, it excuses the crime as an irresponsible act, and attaches no stigma to the unfor-

fortunate person, who, in reality, is an object of pity and solicitude rather than contempt and vengeance. In the case of this class of persons more than of any other committed to our Asylum, the greatest vigilance is demanded that their confinement be entirely safe. Though irresponsible for these acts, which are of the gravest character, and fraught with terrible consequences to society, their mania often times does not disqualify them from making combinations for assault or escape. Often laboring under the impression that their detention is unjust, they become the most dangerous inmates of an asylum.

BUILDING AND REPAIRS.

The work upon the new building has not progressed as rapidly as I had hoped. The convict labor employed has not been profitable to the State or to this institution. The convicts seemed restiff and intent upon escape, and it was a difficult task to keep them in their places and at work. Too many were employed, and contentions often existed as to whose turn it was to labor, a large number being constantly idle, and some most of the time in mischief. On so large a building it was impossible for the keeper's eye to be always upon so many, and they often took advantage of such opportunities to plan escapes. I think it would have been a large saving of expense both to the State and to the building appropriation to have employed outside labor when we take into account the number of extra keepers required for the labor performed. Very few skilled mechanics were found among the number. After convict labor was dispensed with, patients from our halls were employed as laborers, and it was found that four lunatics could do the work of nine convicts upon the derrick and have plenty of time to rest.

The roof is now being put upon the building, and we hope to get it enclosed before the winter sets in. When completed it will accommodate eighty patients, with dining rooms upon each floor and kitchen in the basement. It is intended to make the hall and staircase between the new and old buildings fire-proof, and for the accommodation of both. The patients upon the same floor in the old and new buildings will use the same dining-room alternately, and the small dining-room now used in the old building is intended to be fitted up for the accommodation of the friends of patients who may visit them, and thus relieve the public office of the annoyance. The kitchen in the basement of the centre building will be removed to the new wing and the

superintendent's apartments be thus relieved of the odors concomitant upon the preparation of food for an hundred persons. Each sleeping apartment is ventilated by a flue opening in the wall at the floor large enough to receive and conduct off all foul odors. The warming will be by steam radiators set in recesses in the walls of the halls, beneath which are flues for furnishing pure cold air. An underground passage has been constructed to the old ice-house, which will be used as a boiler house, which will necessitate the construction of a new ice-house upon some other part of the grounds.

With a view to durability and economy the wood-work of the interior will be of red oak and the floors of hard maple. I have made a contract with responsible parties for thirty thousand feet of hard maple flooring one and one-half inch thick by three inches in width, every piece to be sound and straight, at thirty-two and one-half dollars per thousand feet, to be delivered at the Asylum at such time as it shall be wanted for use. Also for sixteen thousand feet of red oak on the same conditions.

Much mechanical labor has been performed upon the building by our patients during the past season. One patient has made and kept in order all the stone cutters' tools, while another has painted the window frames, sash and iron gratings, and a third has glazed all the windows. Another has rendered material aid in cutting stone.

A dry house has also been built, connecting the wash-house and chapel building. This supplies a need long felt, especially in stormy weather, when it has been impossible to get the clothing in order for patients by the end of the week.

The chapel has also undergone thorough repairs. The walls have been painted, the pulpit remodeled and handsomely trimmed so as to make the place pleasant and inviting.

The fence of the outer lot upon Water Street has been substantially rebuilt, and a tax levied by the city authorities for grading and stoning Wall Street, in front of the Asylum grounds has been paid in amount \$244 72.

In addition to labor performed upon the building in process of construction, our patients have rendered efficient service in keeping in order the grounds and garden, besides their usual work in the kitchen, bakery, wash house, laundry, stables, yard &c.

The law restricts the number of Attendants to eight, with no provision for the necessary help employed in carrying on the operations.

of the Asylum, outside of the patients' wards. Food must be prepared, bread baked, the garden and grounds cultivated, the heating apparatus regulated; and while patients can perform the labor, there must be some one always with them to take supervision of their work and prevent escape. The right of employing such help has several times been questioned, and I would suggest the propriety of a law definitely settling this matter, as the opening of the new building, and growth of the institution, will necessitate the employment of additional help. A change in the law, giving the Board of Inspectors discretionary power in the matter, is, I think, advisable.

An appropriation of one hundred dollars for books has been expended for that purpose. Many of our patients are anxious for reading matter, and what seems most in demand is light reading; periodicals, pictorial papers, something to attract their attention and divert their thoughts. We all know how much stronger are impressions gained through the sense of sight, than of hearing or feeling. A small appropriation for periodicals I think would pay largely in interest excited in the darkened minds committed to our care.

One thousand dollars was appropriated for coping the outer walls upon the west and south sides of the Asylum grounds. The coping will be put upon the wall as soon as ready for use.

Fifteen thousand dollars was appropriated toward the completion of the Asylum building, which is being expended for the purposes for which the act of appropriation designated. The building is not far enough advanced toward completion to enable us to expend the twenty-five hundred dollars appropriated for heaters during this season.

The introduction of new heating apparatus of enlarged capacity into the Asylum, will necessitate the re-arrangement of the steam pipes and radiators in the old buildings, with additional heaters for the rear building and wash house, which should also be provided with facilities for obtaining hot water.

The slate roof upon the centre building is broken and leaky, and requires to be extensively repaired or renewed. Provision should also be made for painting the cornices and windows of the old buildings.

Your frequent visits and watchful guardianship have made you acquainted with the general condition, management and expenses of the Asylum. Though the average population of the Asylum is more than ten per cent greater than that of the preceding year, we are happy to state that the expenses have been less.

The following exhibits the property valuation of the institution, as given by the sworn appraisers appointed by your Honorable Board. In many instances the personal property has been largely reduced in valuation from former inventories, while in a few instances it has been increased.

Estate.....	1871.	1872.	1873.	Gain in 1 year.	Gain in 2 years.
Personal.....	17,860 32	24,401 36	26,605 02	2,203 66	8,744 70
Real.....	99,226 00	112,226 00	141,021 92	28,795 92	41,795 92
Total.....	117,086 32	136,627 36	167,626 94	30,999 58	50,540 62

The usual statistical information pertaining to the patients will be found in the following tables :

TABLE No. 1.

NATIONALITY OF PATIENTS.

United States, white.....	39
United States, colored.....	10
United States, Indian.....	1
Ontario,.....	5
England,.....	3
Ireland,.....	33
Germany,.....	11
Italy,.....	1
Sweden,.....	1
Spain,.....	1
Switzerland,.....	3
Total.....	109

TABLE No. 2.

DEGREE OF EDUCATION.

Read and Write.....	69
Read only.....	20
Cannot Read.....	20
Total.....	109

TABLE No. 3.

AGES WHEN COMMITTED.

From 16 to 20 years of age.....	7
From 20 to 25 " ".....	28
From 25 to 30 " ".....	29
From 30 to 35 " ".....	14
From 35 to 40 " ".....	12
From 40 to 45 " ".....	13

From 45 to 50 years of age.....	5
From 50 to 55 " "	2
From 55 to 60 " "	1
From 60 to 65 " "	1
Total.....	<hr/> 109

TABLE No. 4.

SOCIAL CONDITION.

Married.....	28
Widowed.....	9
Single.....	67
Unknown.....	5
Total.....	<hr/> 109

TABLE No. 5.

PREVIOUS OCCUPATION.

Barber.....	1
Blacksmith.....	1
Boatman	1
Book-keepers.....	3
Box-maker.....	1
Brick-maker.....	1
Butcher....	1
Carmen.....	4
Cabinet-makers.....	2
Carpenters.....	4
Coachmen.....	2
Cooper.....	1
Farmers.....	10
Gardener.....	1
House-keepers.....	6
Laborers.....	22
Law Clerk.....	1
Lawyer.....	1
Lock-smith.....	1
Machinist.....	1
Masons.....	2
Merchants.....	2
Milliner and Hair-Dresser.....	1
Miner.....	1
No Occupation.....	7
Painters.....	3
Printers.....	2
Plumber.....	1

Sailors.....	5
School-teacher.....	1
Shoe-makers.....	6
Ship Carpenter	1
Soldiers.....	2
Stone Cutters.....	3
Tailors.....	4
Telegraph Operator.....	1
Wagon Maker.....	1
Watch Maker.....	1
Total.....	<u>10</u> ₉

TABLE No. 6.

COUNTIES WHERE COMMITTED.

	Convict.	Criminal.	Total.
Albany	3	..	3
Broome.....	1	..	1
Cattaraugus.....	1	1	2
Clinton.....	1	..	1
Cortland.....	1	..	1
Columbia.....	..	2	2
Dutchess.....	1	1	2
Delaware.....	1	..	1
Erie.....	3	1	4
Franklin.....	1	..	1
Fulton.....	1	..	1
Genesee.....	1	..	1
Herkimer.....	1	..	1
Jefferson.....	1	..	1
Kings.....	1	2	3
Livingston.....	1	..	1
Monroe.....	1	1	2
New York.....	36	6	42
Niagara.....	2	..	2
Oneida.....	2	..	2
Onondaga.....	1	..	1
Ontario.....	..	1	1
Otsego.....	..	1	1
Queens.....	4	..	4
Rensselaer.....	5	2	7
Rockland.....	3	..	3
Saratoga.....	..	1	1
Schenectady.....	1	..	1
Suffolk.....	2	2	4
Ulster.....	2	2	4

United States Convict.....	1	..	1
Washington.....	1	..	1
Westchester.....	6	..	6
Total.....	86	23	109

TABLE No. 7.

CRIMES FOR WHICH COMMITTED.

	Convict.	Criminal.	Total.
Arson.....	5	..	5
Assault and Battery.....	1	..	1
Assault to Kill. . .	3	..	3
Assault to Harm.....	2	..	2
Burglary.....	20	..	20
Burglary and Larceny.....	3	..	3
Forgery.....	1	..	1
Larceny.....	20	..	20
Manslaughter.....	2	..	2
Murder.....	12	20	32
Murder, Attempt	3	3
Mutiny.....	1	..	1
Rape.....	4	..	4
Rape, Attempt.....	1	..	1
Robbery.....	7	..	7
Robbery, Highway.....	4	..	4
Total.....	86	23	109

TABLE No. 8.

TIME FOR WHICH COMMITTED.

One year.....	2
One to two years.....	2
Two to three years.....	15
Three to four years.....	3
Four to five years.....	7
Five to six years.....	17
Six to seven years.....	..
Seven to eight years.....	3
Eight to nine years.....	2
Nine to ten years.....	2
Ten to fifteen years.....	9
Fifteen to twenty years.....	7
Twenty years.....	5
Life.....	10
Death.....	3
Unconvicted.....	22
Total.....	109

TABLE No. 9.

HABITS OF LIFE.

Temperate.....	27
Intemperate.....	45
Moderate.....	28
Not known.....	9
Total.....	<u>109</u>

TABLE No. 10.

MENTAL CONDITION.

Mania Acute.....	3
Mania Chronic.....	40
Mania Periodic.....	4
Mania Paroxysmal.....	6
Melancholia.....	9
Dementia.....	32
Dementia with Chorea.....	1
Epilepsy.....	7
Paresis.....	1
Imbecile.....	2
Not insane.....	4
Total.....	<u>109</u>

TABLE No. 11.

DURATION OF INSANITY IN THOSE REMAINING IN ASYLUM AT THE CLOSE OF
FISCAL YEAR.

Under four months.....	2
Under nine months.....	4
Under one year.....	1
Under two years.....	6
Under three years.....	5
Under four years.....	6
Under five years.....	3
Under ten years.....	5
Under fifteen years.....	15
Under twenty years.....	10
Before Conviction.....	16
Not known.....	10
Not insane.....	3
Total.....	<u>86</u>

TABLE No. 12.

TERMS OF SENTENCE YET TO SERVE BY THOSE REMAINING IN THE ASYLUM.

Unconvicted.....	20
Sentences Expired.....	16
Under one year.....	6
Under two years.....	7
Under three years.....	6
Under four years.....	7
Under five years.....	2
Under seven years.....	2
Under eight years.....	2
Under twelve years.....	1
Under thirteen years.....	1
Under fourteen years.....	1
Under sixteen years.....	1
Under eighteen years.....	1
Under nineteen years.....	1
For life.....	9
To death.....	3
Total.....	86

TABLE No. 13.

MONTHLY RECORD OF PATIENTS.

MONTHS.	No. First of Month.	Received.	Discharged.	Average No. each M th .	Died.	Escaped.	Whole No. each Month.
October, 1872,.....	87	5		88.68			92
November, ".....	92	2		92.67			94
December, ".....	94	2	1	94.68			96
January, 1873,.....	95	2	4	94.94			97
February, ".....	93	1	2	93.25			94
March, ".....	92	1	6	90.84			93
April, ".....	87			87.			87
May, ".....	87	1		88.			88
June, ".....	88	2		88.47	1		90
July, ".....	88	1	1	88.5	1		90
August, ".....	88	4	1	88.	2	2	92
September, ".....	87	1	2	88.6			89

TABLE No. 14.
RECORD OF PATIENTS RECEIVED DURING THE FISCAL YEAR.

No.	Sex	Color.	Age	Nativity.	Where Committed.	Crime.	Date of Commitment.	Date of Attack.	Duration of disease before admission to Asylum.	Term of Sentence.	Degree of Education	Habits of Life	Alleged cause of Insanity.
1	M	White	30	Germany	New York	Grand Larceny	Sept. 20, 1872	Before Conviction	Not known	2 years	Good	Moderate	Masturbation
2	F	White	19	Germany	New York	Grand Larceny	June 14, 1871	Not known	Not known	5 years	Good	Not known	Not known
3	F	Col'd	23	America	New York	Grand Larceny	Dec. 15, 1869	April, 1872	6 months	5 years	Good	Temperate	Not known
4	M	White	43	America	New York	Murder	July 14, 1872	Not known	Not known	Indefinite	Good	Intemperate	Not known
5	M	White	27	America	Edin	Murder	Jan. 12, 1872	Not known	Not known	Indefinite	Good	Temperate	Not known
6	M	White	28	Ireland	New York	Grand Larceny	Jan. 11, 1872	Not known	Not known	4 years	Good	Moderate	Not known
7	M	White	21	America	New York	Grand Larceny	Oct. 28, 1872	Before Conviction	3 years	2 years & 6 mos.	Good	Temperate	Masturbation
8	M	White	30	America	Rockland	Grand Larceny	Sept. 5, 1871	Before Conviction	1 year	2 years	Good	Intemperate	Masturbation
9	M	White	23	America	Albany	Burglary	June 11, 1868	Not known	Not known	8 years	Good	Intemperate	Masturbation
10	M	White	22	America	Monroe	Burglary	Dec. 28, 1872	Not known	Not known	Not Sentenced	Good	Temperate	Epilepsy
11	M	Ind'n	24	America	New York	Burglary	March 18, 1870	May, 1872	8 months	5 years	Good	Intemperate	Masturbation
12	M	White	21	America	New York	Burglary	March 2, 1871	January, 1873	1 month	2 years & 6 mos	Good	Temperate	Masturbation
13	M	White	23	America	New York	Burglary	May 10, 1872	January, 1873	2 months	2 years & 6 mos	Good	Intemperate	Not known
14	M	White	47	America	Delaware	Forgery	Feb. 28, 1872	Before Conviction	3 years	5 years	Good	Temperate	Not known
15	M	White	55	Ireland	New York	Grand Larceny	March 28, 1873	Before Conviction	1 year	5 years	Good	Temperate	Not known
16	M	White	25	Germany	New York	Grand Larceny	Feb. 15, 1870	January, 1873	6 months	1 year	Good	Moderate	Grief
17	M	White	25	Ireland	New York	Robbery	Dec. 19, 1870	January, 1873	6 months	30 years	Good	Intemperate	Not known
18	M	White	23	America	New York	Burglary	Jan. 8, 1872	Not known	6 weeks	2 years	Good	Intemperate	Masturbation
19	M	White	20	Germany	Westchester	Grand Larceny	Nov. 21, 1871	June, 1873	2 months	2 years	Good	Moderate	Masturbation
20	F	White	28	America	Queens	Larceny	July 27, 1873	Before Conviction	Not known	15 months	Good	Temperate	Not known
21	F	White	47	Canada	Henssler	Murder	July 27, 1873	Not known	Not known	Life	Good	Intemperate	Not known
22	M	White	36	Ireland	New York	Robbery	May 12, 1870	January, 1873	8 months	15 years	None	Moderate	Not known

TABLE No. 15.
SHOWING THE CURRENT MONTHLY EXPENSES FOR THE YEAR.

MONTHS.	Salaries of Asylum Officers and pay of help.	Rations.	Printing and Stationery.	Furniture.	Medical Stores.	Clothing and Bedding.	Building and Repairs.	Fuel and Lights.	Farming Tools, Hay, Grain, &c.	Discharged Patients.	Miscellaneous.	Amount Total.
1872, October.....	\$522 67	\$687 80	\$2 05	\$26 43	\$11 81	\$190 02		\$30 83	\$31 56		\$0 00	1,589 17
" November.....	566 17	703 45	10 38	26 50	10 95	228 01	18 25	42 25	54 10		16 80	1,658 61
" December.....	592 67	512 36	9 55	20 33	27 42	105 05		54 57	52 97		137 00	1,566 17
1873, January.....	565 89	475 84		7 75	31 44	292 89		52 88	29 65	\$112 00	17 86	1,377 20
" February.....	607 67	481 30	2 00	15 85	22 68	49 88		103 73	18 79	22 61	100 00	1,434 51
" March.....	607 67	438 92	4 50	2 00	9 70	90 51	244 72	33 12	68 34	92 50	17 00	1,364 35
" April.....	601 84	508 74	19 59	10 00	5 16	91 50		23 05	32 17		44 80	1,581 37
" May.....	607 67	364 57	25	10 75	11 45	149 93		14 95	36 05		16 00	1,311 62
" June.....	607 67	485 55	13 50	15 49	22 37	167 19		14 90	22 58		17 00	1,366 25
" July.....	607 67	732 86	14 20	17 94	15 45	198 47		8 13	30 15	16 61	16 00	1,657 57
" August.....	539 82	430 98	5 40	35 73	11 94	46 00		1,631 77	36 43	24 61	17 75	2,791 82
" September.....	559 63	321 11	2 75	9 60	24 05	58 85		80	34 50		16 00	1,131 87
Total.....	\$7,143 04	\$6,163 48	\$84 26	\$199 37	\$204 42	\$1,638 30	\$232 97	\$2,090 95	\$137 29	\$268 33	\$132 01	\$18,914 42

THE FOLLOWING ARTICLES WERE MADE IN THE FEMALE WARD.

Aprons.....	38
Chemises.....	21
Comfortables.....	68
Cushions.....	3
Drawers (pairs).....	19
Dresses.....	14
Flannel shirts.....	40
Handkerchiefs.....	248
Napkins, table.....	12
Night dresses.....	15
Pillow cases.....	62
Sacques.....	12
Stockings (pair knit).....	7
Spreads, bed.....	24
Skirts.....	14
" quilted.....	9
Shirts.....	136
Sheets.....	157
Table cloths.....	8
Tidies.....	7
Towels.....	225
Wrappers.....	11
Waists.....	6
Total.....	1146

WORK DONE IN SEWING ROOM.

Coats.....	91
Vests.....	57
Pantaloons.....	116
Wrappers.....	39
Drawers.....	87
Over shirts.....	4
Overalls.....	7
Suspenders.....	30
Handkerchiefs.....	192
Shirt bosoms.....	59
Dresses.....	8
Skirt.....	1
Bed ticks.....	31
Pillow ticks.....	8
Sheets.....	14
Pillow cases.....	23

Bed spreads.....	19
Mended Garments.....	3813
Total in Sewing Room.....	4599
Total in Female Ward.....	1146
Grand Total.....	5745

Our garden has yielded us fruits and vegetables in amount, about as in former years. It is unfortunate for the finances of the institution, and the welfare of the patients that we are not possessed of more land, as our patients could keep a small farm in the condition of a garden, and do much toward defraying the expenses of support. The following comprises the varieties and amount of products together with the stock upon the premises.

Apples	20 bush.
Asparagus	275 lbs.
Beans (string)	7 bush.
Beans (shell)	2 bush.
Beets	12 bush.
Cabbage	200 heads.
Celery	1000 heads.
Corn (sweet)	65 bush.
Cherries	6 bush.
Currants	60 qts.
Cucumbers	3 bbls.
Grapes	7 bush.
Lettuce	6 bush.
Onions	6 bush.
Parsnips	1 bush.
Pears	15 bush.
Peppers	1-2 bush.
Potatoes	250 bush.
Pumpkins	200
Quinces	2 1-2 bush.
Raspberries	30 qts.
Rhubarb	300 lbs.
Salsify	2 bush.
Squashes	100
Tomatoes	50 bush.
Store Hogs	, 8
Cows	2
Horse	1

We have also made sixty barrels of soft soap, and killed twenty-three hundred and forty-one pounds of pork.

To those thoughtful and considerate citizens of Auburn, who from time to time during the year have contributed old papers, books and magazines for the use of the inmates of our Asylum, we return thanks. Rescued from the waste basket, of comparatively little value, old magazines and papers are eagerly sought after and thoroughly appreciated by many of our patients, to whom they furnish innocent and healthful enjoyment.

We are under renewed obligations to that earnest worker in the cause of prison reform, Dr. Elisha Harris, Secretary of the Prison Association, for his kindness in procuring additional reading matter for the blind boy, ASA KETTLE, whose sad case was referred to at length in our last annual report. We wish it were possible that Asa could be removed to some institution possessing all the improved facilities for the development of his mind, as we believe him to be already a safe member of society, and with proper advantages and instruction, could be made a useful one. Naturally bright and affectionate, he is an apt and willing scholar. His deportment has been uniformly exemplary, and his progress in mental and moral knowledge truly wonderful, when it is considered that (blind from his birth) but a few months ago without education, he was as ignorant of the distinction between right and wrong, as of white and black. His case has been made the subject of an interesting tract published in the *Bible Record*.

A free concert given early in the year by the Colored Jubilee Singers, proved a source of hearty delight to the inmates of the Asylum, often referred to with grateful expressions of remembrance.

Rev. Dr. Brainard of the Episcopal Church, Dr. Laughlin and Rev. Mr. Kavanaugh of the Catholic Church, and Rev. Messrs Green and Annable of the Methodist Church, resident Clergymen of this City, have kindly given their ministrations at different times throughout the year, to the evident satisfaction and profit of the patients.

The pain and regret with which we parted with Rev. Mr. Shepperd, who had been since our incumbency, a faithful chaplain, has been in a great degree dissipated by the tact and ability of his successor, our present esteemed Chaplain, Rev. Wm. Searles, who has taken up the work of caring for the spiritual wants of his little congregation at the Asylum, in a kind and devoted spirit. Diligent and faithful in the performance of his perplexing duties, he possesses that confidence and love so necessary to success in dealing with the hearts of such an un-

fortunate class as compose his flock. Mr. Searls is peculiarly well qualified for his post.

The discipline of the institution has been improved, and the Attendants as a rule faithful. Except for the purpose of weeding out incompetent persons, I have endeavored to avoid all changes in the affairs of the institution.

Mr. William V. Miller, whom I found filling the office of Assistant and Clerk when I took charge of the Asylum, and who has been since associated with me, has, by an energetic and conscientious discharge of the varied and important duties of his position, greatly assisted in making my endeavors for the welfare and discipline of the Asylum successful. Though just on the threshold of manhood, he has, by his ability and fidelity in the performance of official duty, earned the respect and confidence of all with whom he has come in contact.

In conclusion I would gratefully acknowledge the patience and fidelity with which the officers and employes of the Asylum have performed their varied duties.

To you Gentlemen of the Board of Inspectors, I return thanks for your efficient support, and the continued confidence you have reposed in me, trusting that our mutual efforts in the cause of humanity may prove a blessing to those committed to our care.

Respectfully submitted,

JAMES W. WILKIE,

Medical Superintendent.

Auburn, September 30th, 1873.

CHAPLAIN'S REPORT.

ASYLUM FOR INSANE CRIMINALS, }
Auburn, N. Y., Sept. 30, 1873. }

To the Honorable the Board of Inspectors of State Prisons :

GENTLEMEN.—: I have the pleasure of presenting my first report as Chaplain of this Institution.

It will be remembered that I have held this position but a few months, only entering upon its duties the first day of March last ; five months, therefore, of the fiscal year had passed under the charge of my beloved predecessor, the Rev. D. A. Shepperd. He very kindly aided me by his ripe experience, which was the result of years of toil here, to enter upon my duties with less embarrassment, than otherwise I could have done.

The religious services are held Sabbath afternoons at 2 o'clock, and are conducted according to the ordinary usages of Religious Assemblies, only more brief. From fifty-five to seventy generally attend these services, and, though their mental faculties are sadly out of tune, most of them are deeply interested in the exercises. Demented as they are, they join in singing and manifest much pleasure in the music, as well as give attention to what is said to them.

Mrs. Wilkie, the accomplished wife of the Superintendent, is always present to play on the organ and assist in singing. This estimable lady seems to have a wonderful influence over the unfortunate inmates, for their good. They look upon her as a fostering mother, and well they may, for their own mothers could not treat them more kindly nor exercise more beneficial sway.

The most perfect order prevails under the watchful eye and commanding influence of the worthy Superintendent.

I am sure that the value of this Institution is not fully estimated, and that, from the fact that its work is too little understood to be truly appreciated. To take a living Babel of unmeaning sounds, a shapeless chaos of warring elements, and to restrain, control, guide and instruct them, that they may safely come together to sing and worship without the least disturbance, is a work worthy the highest christian civilization.

The more I see of these services the more I am impressed with their utility. And then their comfortable rooms, their large and well ventilated halls, their wholesome diet, added to the vigilant discipline, exercised over these erring, demented men and women, have an influence which will more than pay back to humanity, the appropriations made by the State, for its support.

If but *one* can be brought back to the full possession of his mental faculties, it will pay !

The whole may be presented as a specimen of what enlightened christian people can do.

Most Respectfully,

WM. SEARLS. Chaplain.